



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 December 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
24 DECEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

As of 1100 EST today, only minor and widely scattered violations of the Christmas truce had been reported. The number of incidents so far--some 22--is below the rate of such incidents during the truce period last Christmas.

Two Marines were killed and seven wounded when Viet Cong fired on their positions near Da Nang; one American was wounded in another incident.

2. South Vietnam

Vietnamese dock workers have demonstrated, as expected, against the replacement on Wednesday of Vietnamese stevedores by US military personnel in the military port. So far, the demonstrations have been small and peaceful. Dock work continues undisturbed at both the military port and the Port of Saigon.

There are signs, however, that some labor leaders are bent on exploiting this issue to cause trouble throughout the whole Port of Saigon. The leadership of Vietnamese labor is badly split, and the dock workers' grievances have become an issue between factions.

Latest word is that there will be at least a partial strike of port workers on Monday or Tuesday.

3. Communist China

50X1

50X1

4. Communist China

Recent rallies held to denounce officials brought down months ago mark a new trend in the political infighting going on among the Chinese leaders. We are beginning to see suggestions that the Mao - Lin Piao group is threatening to use more direct methods--execution or imprisonment--against its enemies.

Foreign correspondents in Peking say there were mass meetings in the capital on 12 and 20 December called to "unmask the crimes" of four former key members of the leadership. These included the one-time party boss of Peking, a former chief of the secret police and a former overlord of party propaganda.

Rumors are now flying that three out of four of these people committed suicide by poison after the meeting on the 20th.

It is still unclear whether this campaign against some of the earlier "enemies" will lead to moves against top-drawer members of the current opposition such as Liu Shao-chi.

24 Dec 66

Top Secret